

Announcements

May Sangha Services - Our Sangha Service (Sangha is the Sanscrit word for Buddhist community) is a traditional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi. Immediately following Sunday services we offer a book study and discussion. We now offer two book study programs. **Buddhism 101** featuring the book "Eight Mindful Steps to Happiness" by Bhante Henepola Gunaratana. The second option, **Jodo Shinshu Book Study**, featuring the book "A Life of Awakening-The Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path", by Takamaro Shigaraki. Refreshments will be available following the book study and everything will be wrapped up by noon. All are welcome to come join the discussions.

Gotan'e - Sunday May 14th - Literally translates to "come down- birthday gathering". May 21, 1173 marks the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. It is also referred to as Fujimatsuri or "Wisteria Festival Day". In celebrating the birthday of Shinran Shonin, let us quietly recall his life and visualize him quietly meditating on the depth of his karmic actions as well as visualizing him happily embraced by the Infinite Compassion of Amida Buddha which also shines upon us. This vision should show us the kind of life - filled with gratitude - that we should follow in our daily lives. -Rev. George Shibata-*The Buddhist Holidays*

Sangha Club - Sunday, May 21 - All are welcome! Please stay after service to see what this new club is about. We have replaced the Fujinki which was predominantly for women and have opened it up for adults of both genders. We would like your input as to what kind of events and services we will want to work on over the next few months.

Ven. Lama Panchen Otrul Rinpoche - Tuesday, May 30- Panchen Otrul Rinpoche has spent his life learning and teaching the Buddha Dharma. In 1959, when the Chinese Communists took control of Tibet, Panchen Otrul Rinpoche was put in a concentration camp.

In 1960 he escaped to India where he began programs of study for Sere, Ganden and Drepung, the biggest Gelugpa Monastic Universities in India and also for the Institute of Tibetan Higher Studies at Sarnath.

In 1995 Panchen Otrul Rinpoche traveled to Mongolia with His Holiness the Dalai Lama who asked him to stay and teach Dharma to the Mongolian people. Since 1995 he has traveled there for two months each year in order to help with the re-establishment of Buddhism in Mongolia.

In 2001 he established Asral Charity in Mongolia to oversee his work there and the Maitreya Charity in the USA to join Tashi Khyil and Jampa Ling in raising funds for his work in Mongolia and among Tibetan Refugees in India.

On Tuesday evening, May 30, Panchen Otrul Rinpoche will be showing a presentation about his important work in Mongolia. This presentation will be held at the temple. Please join us to learn more about this very worthwhile project.

Temple News

By Christine Marr
Temple President

We celebrated Hanamatsuri and the Japan Week activities in one weekend this year. Quite a challenge; thanks to the volunteer's hard work, we did it! Our strength lies in the spirit and energy of our sangha both young and old. Thank you all for your participation.

These fundraisers go on longer than the actual day of the event. Two weeks ago a hard working volunteer group gave up their Saturday to make bags of our delicious senbei rice crackers for the bake sale. Thanks to Jefferson Workman who headed up the crew and the workers listed by name in this newsletter.

The week prior to the fundraiser was spent in preparation of the food and dining room. All day Friday a talented "guy group" cooked our chicken teriyaki. Note~ I heard rave reviews on

the generous portions and perfectly prepared chicken this year~. Next, on Saturday morning another group gathered at 6 am to make sushi and assemble the box lunches. That led into the bake sale with generous donations and the long awaited sale of the chicken lunches. Then there was the clean-up crew... Co-chairs Janet Tamura and Patti Lira put many hours into coordinating this sold out event, ~ two tireless workers this year! Also, a huge thank you to all the dependable workers who signed up to help. One of the major ways we are able to keep our doors open relies heavily on our food bazaars and fundraisers. This particular event sold about 250 box lunches and lots of senbei. We will be able to provide many activities and guest speakers with the money raised. You now have an idea of the work involved!

An example of the programs we are able to underwrite from the fundraisers is our annual speaker for Japan Week. This year we welcomed our special guest Rev. Gregory Gibbs from the Oregon Buddhist Temple. He gave a thoughtful lecture on Japanese culture and Buddhism to an interested crowd. We so enjoy Rev. Gibbs friendship with our temple and his scholarly manner along with his warmth and humor.

Our Hanamatsuri service led by Rev. Gibbs was beautiful and enjoyed by all.



The dharma school children were so excited to participate in pouring the sweet tea over the statue of the baby Buddha.

It was also wonderful to see Kam Uyeji and Satoshi Terao helping with the donation table again.

On the subject of fundraising and donations, Leslie is including our donation information to serve as a reminder and also provide information for new people receiving this newsletter and attending services. It can be confusing!

Paul Vielle our minister's assistant has helped us bring back Shotsuki Hoyo after many years. What is it? Here is a brief explanation:

Shotsuki Hoyo 祥月法要 (Monthly Memorial)

While it is carried out principally for the families of people who passed away in a given month, the monthly memorial service also serves to remind all of us of anicca, impermanence. Quoting the Dhammapada, "We too shall pass away. Knowing this, how can we quarrel?"

The names are read during the memorial part of the service, donations are given in honor of the family members. This is also explained by Paul during the service if you wish to add your family members. This is an important part of the Jodo Shinshu tradition in all temples.

We are looking forward to a wonderful summer with workshops and Bon Odori dancing in July. See you there!

With Gassho-

Christine Marr

From the T atami Mat. . . .

*"Fleeting,
like the Cherry Blossoms"*

On Sunday, April 9, I had the good fortune to attend the *Hanamatsuri* Service in Moses Lake. This is one of two times during the year when the Columbia Basin Sangha (in Moses Lake) and members from the Yakima Buddhist Temple come together for a service. For many reasons, it was a happy time for all. Spring was in the air, bringing with it the promise of a new planting season. Long-time friends and family members greeted one another warmly. And of course, it was *Hanamatsuri*; the celebration of the infant Buddha's birth. A festive, almost jubilant mood filled the air.

Nearly fifty people showed up for the service, which was held in the old grange hall. On the front table stood the familiar *Obutsudan* along with several floral bouquets. Next to it was the *Hanamida* (or flowered pavilion) which contained a small statue of the standing Buddha. It was a beautiful sight. Rev. Castro was there to officiate the service and Mas Wada, (one of the senior Nissei and a long-time leader of the Yakima sangha) was the Moderator.

Mas Wada is a remarkable person. Although well into his 80's he is thoughtful and articulate in speech. He has this wonderful way of smiling with his eyes. In short, Mas is a model of the kindness, courtesy and devotion one often encounters among the senior Nissei. He led the congregation through the service with decorum and humor.



Rev. Castro's dharma talk was particularly moving. He spoke about the beauty of the cherry trees that blossom every spring at the Seattle Betsuin. "They are so beautiful," he said, "but their beauty is fleeting. Within a week or so the pink blossoms begin to wither and fall to the ground where they quickly reduce to dry, brown heaps. When you think about it, our lives resemble those of the cherry blossoms. We're strong for a time but inevitably our vitality wanes and we fade away. Sometimes we're cut down suddenly in the prime of youth as when a strong wind blows away even the most durable blossoms. Each life is precious and fleeting, and may be taken from us at any moment. Therefore we should strive to live each moment in gratitude for the life we have."

After the service, everyone headed for their cars to drive the short distance to the cemetery, where a graveside memorial for Mrs. Fumi Inabe (a Nissei member of the Moses Lake sangha) would take place shortly. Before leaving, I thanked Mas Wada for allowing me to sit-in on the service and said goodbye. Rev. Castro's dharma message resonated in my mind as I drove along. *Life is fleeting; cherish each moment.*

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

DUES AND DONATIONS

The Spokane Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledges the following dues and donations. Please notify Fumi Uyeji or Liat Parker of any omissions or errors. Dues are acknowledged when received and are often times for a few months or paid yearly

Dues

March 20- April 23

Anne Paulin
Barbara Braden
Celeste Sterrett
Ed & Liat Parker
Estuko Yamada
Harue Yamaguchi
Hisako Oki
Jeffrey Workman
Julie Cairns
Mary Naber
Nobuko Kasai
Yoshiko Kozen
Fumiko Heyamoto
Jeremy Phillips
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Leslie Green
Mary Naber
Paul & Karen Vielle
Barbara Braden
George & Toshie Kawahara
Hatsue Konishi
Jeffrey Workman
Jennifer Johnston
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Rachel Scudder
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Thomas Lande
Kazuko Kirihara

Donations

Dana

Betty Swift
Janet Tamura
Dorothy Uno
Anonymous
Toshie Kawahara
Anonymous

Hanamatsuri

Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Karen Vielle
George & Peggy Heyamoto
Dorothy Uno
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Anonymous
Leslie Green
Ed & Liat Parker
Chris & Christine Marr
Jun Yugawa

Marcelline Burdett
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
George & Toshie Kawahara
Janet Tamura
Fumiko Heyamoto
Kazuko Kirihara

Ohigan

Mr & Mrs Kaz Kuwada
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro

Memorial Dana

Lillian Tokunaga
in memory of Chiyono Yamaguchi

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Minoru Teroa

Fumiko Heyamoto
in memory of Tomiko Yamamoto

Mack Harada
in loving memory of Mrs. Hisako Kato

Shotsuki-Hoyo

May 14, 2006

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, May 14th. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 11 people passed away during the month of February. They are:

Gunemon Fujita
Dick Imada
(Mrs) Fumiko Itano
Hatsutaro Kajita
Yoichi Oba
(Mrs) Taneyo Sato
(Mrs) Chizuko Shegenobu
Tatsuhei Sugikawa
(Mrs) Toyo Sugikawa
(Mrs) Fumiko Takasugi
(Mrs) Sadako Yamamoto



Spokane Buddhist Temple “How (and Why) Do I Donate”

In the early days of our history, the temple was financed largely by donation called Dana; a Buddhist term for selfless giving. In Japanese, this is known as the Orei System. Over the years, temple members established the tradition of donating money to the temple treasury:

On every Buddhist Holiday

At family weddings, funerals, and memorial services.

On monthly Memorial Service days.

For a wide variety of occasions such as return to health, birth of children and grandchildren, graduations etc.

In other words, they tended to make donations to the temple on any occasion they could think of. At all major events at a temple, there was always an Uketsuke or Reception Table. This is a table where donation envelopes are received. This method of financing the temple meant that there were no set fees for membership, only donations

As generations moved on, the children entered into the running of the temple, the idea of membership dues became more and more emphasized, to be able to get a clear idea of how much to donate each year. Thus today we have both Dana (selfless giving) and Membership dues as the major source of income and defining membership.

This is why donations can be so confusing to someone who is not familiar with temple ways of doing things. Both the Orei System and the membership system are used. The tradition of attending special services on every Buddhist Holiday and making a donation on that holiday is very much a part of our Temple.

Our Membership System is a way to know a fixed amount being pledged to the temple each year. A certain amount of that money is sent to the national Buddhist Churches of America or BCA. That money is used to train new ministers and oversee all temples, ministers, Buddhist education etc. The balance goes into the general fund for our temple. Another way of generating funds are the Bazaars and other fundraising events.

If you wish to join our temple, there are applications for membership available.

Envelopes are provided close to the donation box located next to the back pew. It is traditional to write the reason for the donation such as: *Dana*~(*Sanscrit for selfless giving*) or the name of the Buddhist Holiday such as: *Hanamatsuri*~(*The celebration of the Baby Buddha's Birthday*). Another instance would be in memory of someone who has passed away. This should be noted on the envelope along with your name.

The benefit of the Dharma is immeasurable. Please help provide for services and programs by making a donation in the offering box by the back pew. Through you donations we are able to make the Dharma available for the benefit of the community. ~ Gassho

Looking Ahead

Mark Your Calendars:

Bhante Seelawimala

Meditation Retreat

Join us on Saturday, June 24th for an all day retreat conducted by Bhante Seelawimala. It will be held at Mukogawa, Fort Wright Institute. We have reserved one of the lovely dorm houses on campus in a park like setting. This all day retreat is only \$35 per person which includes lunch. More details to follow in next month's newsletter. Reservations will be required as space is limited.

Annual Summer Retreat

with Kenji Akahosi

We have the date for the retreat at this time, which is scheduled for August 11-13, 2006. It too will be held at Mukogawa, Fort Wright Institute. It will begin on Friday evening, and conclude early Sunday morning. The details are still being finalized, but will be posted in upcoming newsletters when we have the information.

Thank You One and All

Everyone gave 110% of their time and effort. We couldn't have done it without this awesome group. We are very grateful to be part of this sangha. Thank you for allowing us to be of service.

Jefferson Workman, Janet Tamura,
and Pati Lira

Senbei Volunteers

Pati Lira
Celeste Sterrett
Ed Parker
Jun Yugawa
Barb Braden
Anne Paulin
Glen Toepfer
Ryan Bowerson
Janet Tamura
Ets Yamada
Justin Kropff
Aiko Terao
Martena Peterson
Karen Vielle
Fumi Uyeji
Suzette Rose
Mark & Rachel Scrudder

Sheri Sojjima
Kengo Kato
Herman Sugimura

Spring Food Bazaar Volunteers

Curtis Cochran
Bob Floyd
Leslie Green
Briana Hartwell
George Heyamoto
Leonard Kasai
Kengo Kato
Steve Kijima
Justin Kropff
Christine Marr
Chris Marr
Bonnell McLeish
Arlene Miyazono
Mary Naber
Ed Parker
Liat Parker
Anne Pauline
Alex Peterson
Martena Peterson
Jeremy Phillips
Rachel Scudder
Lori Taylor
Fumi Uyeji
Karen Vielle
Jefferson Workman
Ets Yamada
Jun Yugawa